Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WSASHDC PRIORITY 4951

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ACCEPTANCE OF LAND REFUGEES FROM THAILAND

REF A. STATE 120222, B. BANGKOK 11879

1. SUMMARY. WE ARE PLEASED THAT DEPT (PARA 6 REF A) HAS AUTHORIZED AN INITIAL ALLOCATION OF 3500 LAND REFUGEES FROM THAILAND TO BE ACCEPTED BY US UNDER THE IMMIENT NEW PROGRAM. WE URGE, HOWEVER, THAT AN ADDITIONAL 2500 NUMBERS BE MADE AVAILABLE SIMULTANEOUSLY, OR CONSECUTIVELY, TO COVER THE REMAINDER OF THE BEST QUALIFIED PRE-AUG 11 REFUGEES. END SUMMARY

2. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY THAT THE INITIAL LAND ALLOCATION SHOULD BE RAISED TO 6000 PRE-AUG 11 REFUGEES. THIS FIGURE OF 6000 REPRESENTS A APRING OF OUR ORIGINAL REQUEST OF 7300 TO THE BEST QUALIFIED LAND REFUGEES WHO SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED PRIOR TO ANY CHANGE IN THE CUTOFF DATE. IT REPRESENTS LESS THAN A FOURTH OF THE ANTICIPATED PAROLE FOR 25,000 REFUGEES, AD THUS WOULD LEAVE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF SPACES FOR BOAT ARRIVALS.

3. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF EFFICIENCY, A GREATER INITIAL ALLOCATION OF NUMBERS WOULD BE MORE COST AND TIME EFFECTIVE. AN INS AND REFUGEE SECTION RUN-THROUGH OF THE 13 THAI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14709 240851Z

INLAND CAMPS REQUIRES THE EXPENDITURE OF MUCH TIME, MONEY AND EFFORT. A SINGLE RUN THROUGH FOR 6000 NUMBERS WOULD REQUIRE ONLY SLIGHT EXTENSIONS OF EACH OF THOSE THREE COMMODITIES COMPARED WITH MAJOR EXTENSIONS FOR A DOUBLE RUN THROUGH OF NUMBERS ALLOCATED AT 3500 OR LESS EACH TIME.

4. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE TAKEN

INTO ACCOUNT AS WELL. ALTHOUGH THE RTG IS FOR THE MOMENT SATISFIED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW US AND AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT WILL BEGIN TO QUESTION IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW US PROGRAM WHICH IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE VP'S STATEMENT THAT 15-20,000 REFUGEES WOULD BE ACCEPTED FROM THAILAND OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

5. TO GIVE THE DEPT A BETTER FEEL FOR THE QUALITY OF THE REGUEES WHO COULD BE ACCOMMODATED UNDER AN INITIAL LAND PROGRAM OF 6000 NUMBERS, WE ARE PROVIDINGIN SEPTEL FOUR PROFILES FROM THE NONGKHAI CAMP, AND THREE FROM LOEI.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ADDITION TO THE INITIALALLOCATION OF 3500 LAND NUMBERS UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM, A SIMULTANEOUS, OR CONSECUTIVE, AUTHORIZATION OF 2500 LAND NUMBERS TO COVER THE BEST QUALIFIED PRE AUG 11 REFUGEES.
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